

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04

SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 ACDA-19 SAM-01 /123 W

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R 032205Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5501

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

S E C R E T USNATO 2438

E.O. 11652: GDS 31-12-86

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: EWG MEETING, 2 MAY 74 -ANTI-ARMOR BRIEFING

REFS: A. USNATO 2247 (AGENDA)

B. USNATO 2436

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING 2 MAY MEETING, US ANTI-ARMOR BRIEFING TEAM GAVE A DETAILED PRESENTATION TO EWG. LIVELY QUESTION/ ANSWER EXCHANGE FOLLOWED PRESENTATION. MISSION APPRECIATES DEPTH AND EXCELLENCE OF BRIEFING. LETTER OF APPRECIATION WILL FOLLOW. TEAM NOW ENGAGED IN FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION WITH DELEGATIONS OF NATO AND A SECOND BRIEFING AT SHAPE TO SACEUR. FRG IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO EWG IN LATE MAY. USNATO RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON PLAN TO SEND KEY MEMBERS OF BRIEFING TEAM TO OBSERVE AND COORDINATE WITH FRG GROUP FROM BONN. MISSION WILL PROVIDE BRIEFING SCHEDULE WHEN IT CAN BE ESTABLISHED. END SUMMARY

1. BRIEFING TEAM ORGANIZED BY JCS GAVE A WELL-PREPARED DETAILED PRESENTATION ON US ANTI-ARMOR PLANNING FOR EUROPE TO THE EWG ON
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MAY 2 (REFS A & B). CHAIRMAN PANSA INTRODUCED THE SUBJECT AS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER REVIEW BY NATO. AT CONCLUSION OF BRIEFING PANSA STATED APPRECIATION ON BEHALF OF THE EWG WITH EMPHASIS ON TWO

POINTS. HE EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE SERIOUS AND THOROUGH EFFECTIVENESS AND VARIETY OF ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS IN THE US INVENTORY.

2. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION.

A. THOMASINI (IMS) LED OFF QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WITH A STATEMENT OF CONCERN ABOUT CONTROL OF AIR ASSETS (FIGHTER BOMBERS AND HELICOPTERS) OVER THE BATTLE AREAS. US RESPONSE (HAYDEN, JCS) WAS THAT US HAD MUCH COMBAT EXPERIENCE AND NO CONTROL PROBLEMS WITH THE USE OF USAF FORWARD AIR CONTROL (FAC) TEAMS.

B. SHAPE AND SHAPE TECHNICAL CENTER (STC) ARE INTERESTED IN DETAILS OF ANALYTICAL STUDIES WHICH SUPPORT US FORCE PROPOSALS. HAYDEN SUMMARIZED VARIOUS US AND ALLIED SURCES AND OFFERED THOSE OF US ORIGIN TO STC.

C. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT US POLICY REGARDING CHEMICAL WEAPONS AGAINST ARMOR, PAYNE (ARMY) REPLIED THAT US WOULD CONSIDER USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ONLY AS A RETALIATORY MEASURE, BUT THEY COULD BE EMPLOYED AGAINST ARMOR⁴.

D. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT DETERMINATION OF US MIX OF WEAPONS, PAYNE STATED THAT OUR STUDIES INDICATE THAT THE PROBABILITIES OF IJECTING ADDITIONAL ASSETS INTO THE CRITICAL AREA ARE ROUGHLY 6 TO 1 FOR ATTACH HELICOPTERS COMPARED TO INFRANTRY WEAPONS (OUTSIDE THE CRITICAL BATTLE AREA), AND 20 TO 1 FOR FIXED-WING ATTACK AIRCRAFT. THESE AVAILABILITY RATIOS HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON US FORCE PLANNING.

E. FRG REP NOTED THAT AT SOME POINT INFRANTRY OVERLOADED WITH ANTI-TANK WEAPONS WILL CEASE TO BE INFANTRY. HAYDEN RESPONDED THAT US POLICY IS NOT TO CHANGE BASIC ROLE OF INFRANTRY BUT RATHER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL WEAPONS SUCH AS TOW AND DRAGON FOR USE WHEN NEEDED.

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F. IN DESCRIBING SURVIVABILITY OF USAF A-10, SHAW (USAF) POINTED OUT ADVANTAGES OF HIGH-MOUNTED ENGINES, LOW IR SIG-NATURES, FOAM-FILLED FUEL TANKS, AND FIRE POWER CAPABILITIES.

G. SHAW EXPLAINED COST SAVINGS ESTIMATE OF 62 PCT THROUGH USE OF GUIDED WEAPONS (SMART BOMBS) IN VIETNAM AIR WAR. STUDIES CONSIDERED TOTAL COSTS AND INCLUDED BOTH ELECTRO-OPTICAL AND LASER-GUIDED BOMBS (LGB), BUT NOT MAVERICK.

H. PAYNE EXPLAINED THAT NO SINGLE MODEL FOR OPTIMIZING TOTAL FORCE STRUCTURE APPEARED TO BE FEASIBLE. US PLANS REFLECTED VARIOUS ARMY AND AIR FORCE COST-EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES, ALL OF WHICH WERE CONSIDERED.

I. PANSA CONCLUDED THE SESSION WITH A QUESTION REGARDING THE NECESSITY FOR SUCH EXTENSIVE REPLACEMENT OF BAZOOKA-TYPE WEAPONS WITH SYSTEMS OF THE F-11B/LGB VARIETY FOR KILLER TANKS. PAYNE RESPONDED THAT A BOZOOKA CAN STILL KILL A TANK, BUT BAZOOKAS ALONE CANNOT STOP A MAJOR TANK ATTACK.

3. THE BRIEFING TEAM MET WITH US, NETHERLANDS AND FRG DELEGATIONS FOLLOWING BRIEFING TO RESPOND TO FURTHER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. TEAM WENT TO SHAPE ON 3 MAY TO BRIEF SACEUR AND STAFF.

4. FRG IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO EWG IN LATE MAY. FRG REPS INDICATED FRG INTENDS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY AS A RESULT OF COMPARISONS WITH US FORCES. FRG REPS ALSO REPORTED THAT THERE WAS A GOOD PROBABILITY THAT OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE CENTRAL REGION WOULD SOON AGREE TO ADOPT PLANNED FRG LEVELS OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. USNATO RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON PLAN TO SEND KEY MEMBERS OF BRIEFING TEAM TO OBSERVE AND COORDINATE WITH FRG GROUP FROM BONN. MISSION WILL PROVIDE BRIEFING SCHEDULE WHEN IT CAN BE ESTABLISHED. RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO02438
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 31-12-86
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740587/abbryusb.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USNATO 2247 (AGENDA) B. USNATO 2436
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Sep-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EWG MEETING, 2 MAY 74 -ANTI-ARMOR BRIEFING
TAGS: MCAF, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

